

**AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION**

Please insert the following paragraph on page 1 of the specification before the paragraph entitled "Field of the invention."

**JOINT RESEARCH AGREEMENT**

This invention was made under a Joint Research Agreement between NTN Corporation, Japan, Asahi Glass Matex Co. Ltd., Japan, and Mitsubishi Rayon Co. Ltd., Japan. The term of the Joint Research Agreement is from December 1, 2000 to March 31, 2002.